

REMARKS

Responsive to the official communications of November, Applicant submits the following Remarks.

Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 to 10 are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, claims 1 and 6 are independent. Claims 11 to 18 have been withdrawn.

I. Claims 2 Meets 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 was objected to as containing an informality. In light of the amendment to claim 2, the objection is moot. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

II. Claims 1 to 10 are Patentable Over Stoeckicht

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,011,365 issued to Stoeckicht (hereinafter Stoeckicht).

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action asserts that claim 1 appears to be a product by process claim because of an alleged process of being “welded together.” In light of the amendment to claim 1, it is believed that the issue of whether claim 1 is a product by process claim is moot. Additionally, because claim 5 depends from claim 1 (which will be shown to be patentable herein), it is believed that the product by process issue regarding claim 5 is also moot.

The Office Action further asserts that Stoeckicht discloses first and second sun gear parts being made in one. Similarly, the Office Action asserts that Stoeckicht discloses first and second planet gear parts being made in one piece. However, in pertinent part, claim 1 recites the first and second sun (and the planet) gear parts being joined by a weld. While Stoeckicht describes sun gears being made in one piece, Stoeckicht is silent regarding a weld joining the sun gear parts. See column 2, lines 16-17. Stoeckicht therefore fails to disclose each and every element required by claim 1 and fails to anticipate claim 1 for that reason.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon, claims 2 to 5, be withdrawn. For similar reasons the Applicant also requests that the rejection of claims 6 to 10 be withdrawn.

III. *Claims 1 to 10 are Patentable Over McKibbin*

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,472,383 issued to McKibbin (hereinafter McKibbin).

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action asserts that McKibbin discloses first and second sun gear parts being made in one. Similarly, the Office Action asserts that McKibbin discloses first and second planet gear parts being made in one piece. However, in pertinent part, claim 1 recites the first and second sun (and the planet) gear parts being joined by a weld. As with Stoeckicht, McKibbin describes a single piece sun gear but is silent regarding a weld joining the sun gear parts. See column 5, lines 52 to 53. In the alternative, McKibbin describes a sun gear being split into two pieces but is otherwise silent regarding a weld joining the sun gear pieces. McKibbin therefore fails

to disclose each and every element required by claim 1 and fails to anticipate claim 1 for that reason.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon, claims 2 to 5, be withdrawn. For similar reasons the Applicant also requests that the rejection of claims 6 to 10 be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 to 10 are allowable over Stoeckicht and McKibbin.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 20-0823.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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